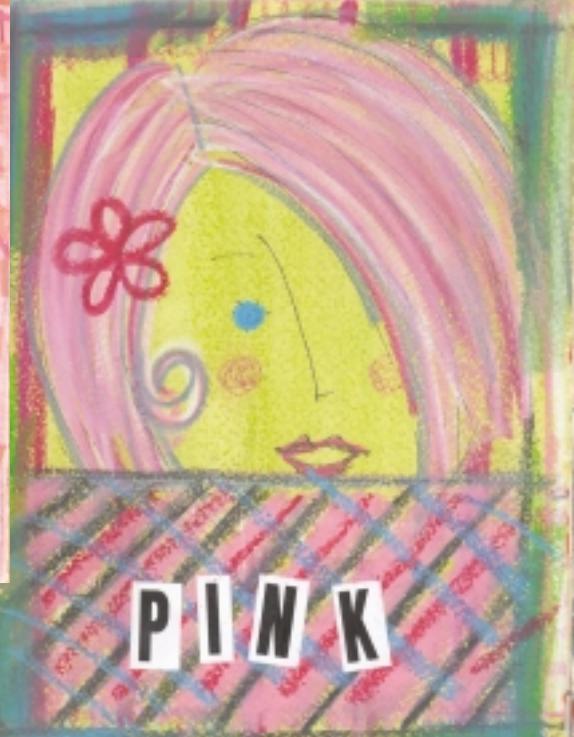
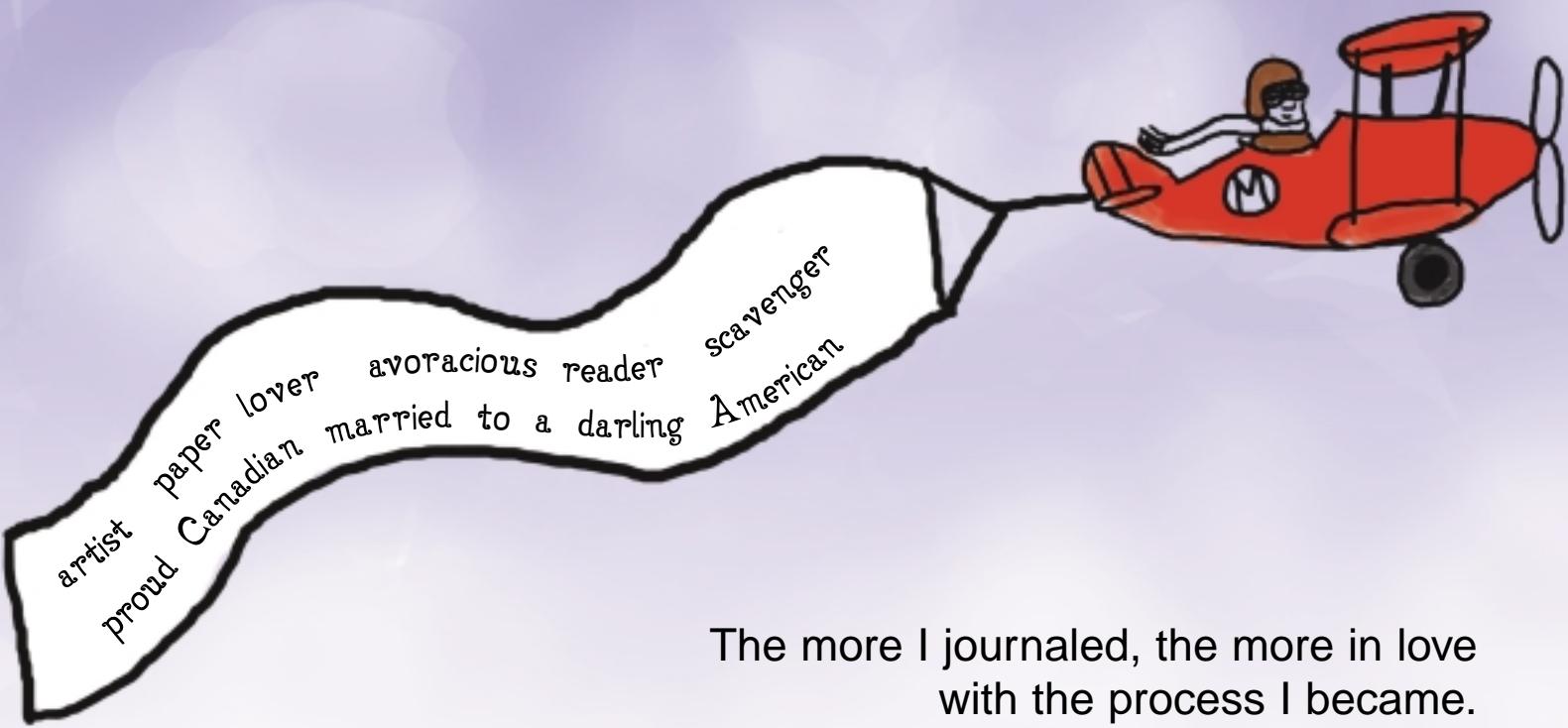


this is where it
BEGGAN...
my first MOLESKIN



The Many Faces of MINDY CARPENTER





The more I journaled, the more in love with the process I became.

"If you asked people to describe me, the first thing they would say is that 'she laughs a lot.' And they would say they laugh AT me because I'm either telling or joke or tripping over something. A graceful gazelle, I am not," admits Mindy Carpenter. Fortunately for this avid art journalist, being graceful is not a requirement to pursue her lifelong passion for journals, books, collage and recently, bookbinding.

When Mindy realized she could put paint, ink, paper, crayons and glue in a book to express herself, it became a transforming experience of self discovery. Art journaling is the medium that gives her freedom to express the less obvious aspects of her personality. "Even though formal occasions of not part of my life, I found I have a fascination with women in party gowns, pearls and gloves—as if they're getting ready for a ball." Drawing these people as a background to her thoughts and words seems intuitive and "just feels good", she explains. These images are reminiscent of the artistic freedom I felt as a child when there were no rules or boundaries. She experiences that same sense of freedom when she moves on to a fresh page whenever she feels like it, whether the previous one is to her liking or not.

A career working for Cavallini Papers & Co. in sales and marketing is "made in heaven" for this journaling enthusiast. "I am one of the lucky ones who enjoys going to work everyday," she says. Well, of course she does. Her company sells moleskin Medieval journals filled with handmade Amalfi paper along with luscious Italian papers and other writing accoutrement. During the extensive travel time required for her job, she journals and visits art stores

wherever she goes. Originally from Victoria, BC, Mindy now lives and works in San Francisco.



"When I'm at home, I probably put something on a page, even if it's gluing down a postcard from a friend, every single day. It keeps me grounded. I spend a lot of time on the weekends at our dining room table, mixing up watercolors, cutting up images from magazines, and doodling all over previously-prepared pages. I almost always do a wash of water color on the page to get over the blank page staring back at me—often I do 7-8 pages at once, let them dry, then come back to write and collage. Last year, during a particularly difficult time, I think I journaled every single evening, late into the night. It was a wonderful, safe place for me to 'get it out,'" she recalls.



A self-described pug enthusiast (but pugless due to a heartless landlord), she surrounds herself with all the artistic things she loves—often salvaged from a flea market or garage sale.

MINDY'S "MUST-HAVES" ART MATERIALS

Alphabet sets from Turtle Art Press in Seattle

Caran d'ache watercolor crayons

Black Micron waterproof pens

White pastels

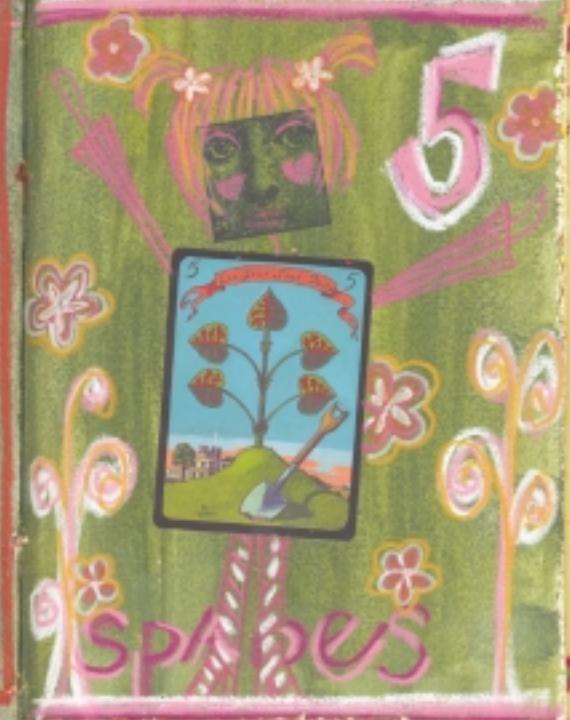
Ephemera, postcards/ticket stubs from my day-to-day life

Golden Medium Gel Matte

Plain old Crayola crayons

Graphite pencils....





MINDY'S "MUST-HAVES" BOOKS AND ZINES

Play by Teesha Moore
Somerset Studio

Brave on the Rocks and Spilling Open by
Sabrina Ward Harrison,
The Decorated Page by Gwen Diehm,
Nick Bantock's books—all of them!
Making Journals by Hand by Jason
Thompson
The Journals of Dan Eldon

I'm trying to imagine what it was like before I started journaling. Life couldn't possibly have been as vibrant or colorful or silly or collaged or imaginative.



AND MORE FAVES

Sid Dicken's tiles

Collage art from Anna Corba and Kazaan Viviers
Art classes with Nina Bagley, Claudine Hellmuth, and Karen Michel
(Three of the most wonderful, funny, generous teachers I've ever met.)

I also met Teesha and Tracy Moore and seeing their journals in person and feeling their enthusiasm was absolutely contagious. It was at that moment I felt like visual journaling was an art form all by itself.

Look for more of Mindy's journal pages in the upcoming 2004 Art Journal Calendar.
She can be contacted at visualjournalgirl@yahoo.com.

